SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please re-write the last paragraph starting on page 1 and spanning to the top of page 2 as follows:

The collection of primary commands and other command sets may be used with SCSI parallel interfaces as well as with serial interfaces. The serial interface standards that support SCSI command processing include: Fibre Channel, Serial Bus Protocol (used with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers 1394 FireWire physical protocol; "IEEE 1394") and the Serial Storage Protocol (SSP). SCSI interfaces and commands are also used to network storage devices with processing devices having serial interfaces such as Serial Attached SCSI ("SAS") and Serial Advanced Technology Attachment ("SATA"). These applications are often referred to as storage networks. Such SCSI storage networks are often used in large storage systems having a plurality of disk drives to store data for organizations and/or businesses. The network architecture allows storage devices to be physically dispersed in an enterprise while continuing to directly support SCSI commands directly. This architecture allows for distribution of the storage components in an enterprise without the need for added overhead in converting storage requests from SCSI commands into other network commands and then back into lower level SCSI storage related commands. Those skilled in the art are familiar with SAS and SATA standards as well as other SCSI related specifications and standards. Information about such interfaces and commands is generally obtainable at the website http://www.t10.org.

Please re-write the first full paragraph on page 8 as follows:

In routine operations of the SAS network domain 100, a SAS initiator 101 performs as a domain control element that determines the topology of the network domain. For example, the domain control element initiator 101 (I1) sends an SMP Discover request to an adjacent expander device 102 (E1) upon initialization of SAS network domain 100. The discovery process operable within the control element traverses the topology of SAS network domain 100, issuing Discover requests and other SMP commands to determine connections among the expander devices 102. Based upon retrieved information from the discovery process, the SAS initiator configures routing tables within the expander devices 102 (and within initiator device 101) such that data and/or control information may be routed between the SAS initiators 101 and the target devices [[the]] 103 via the network of expander devices 102.

Please re-write the last paragraph starting at the bottom of page 9 and spanning to the top of page 10 as follows:

The control element (e.g., initiator I1) processes the response of expander device E1 and determines an appropriate routing configuration for each port (i.e., subtractive routing or table routing). In particular, in the example of figure 1, ports of E1 coupled to either E2 or E3 are configured as table routing ports as messages will generally be directed from initiators through these ports deeper into the SAS domain network. The SAS initiator may configure those ports through a vendor specific message to expander device E1. Certain SMP commands of the SAS standards have vendor specific fields that a vendor may tailor to meet the needs of the vendor's systematic design. Examples of such commands and vendor specific fields are generally known to those ~~killed~~ skilled in the art and are documented in SAS specifications.